

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: March 25, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-139)

TO: Mickey Carter
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager - KEWU-4

Proposed Action: Idaho Model Watershed Habitat Projects – East Fork Riparian Enhancement, Garman Fence

Project No: 1994-017-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities, 6.10 Access: Fencing

Location: Custer County, Idaho

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund the installation of approximately 1,600 feet of riparian fence on the East Fork Salmon River. This fence will be a Jack Post and Pole fence therefore no ground disturbance will take place. The fence will meet BPA's minimum requirement of a 35-foot setback. The Garman fence will include a riparian buffer zone of approximately 4.6 acres and will meet Natural Resource Conservation Service's specifications for jack fences.

Analysis: The NEPA compliance checklist for this project was completed by Allen Bradbury with the Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District (March 23, 2004) and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area are gray wolf, Canada lynx, bald eagle, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon, Snake River steelhead trout, and Columbia River Basin bull trout. It was determined that the proposed fence construction project would have no effect on gray wolf, Canada lynx, or bald eagle since the project site is primarily agricultural and these species are not known to occur in the project area. It was also determined that the proposed project would have no effect on ESA listed aquatic species since the proposed fence will be constructed with little to no ground disturbance at a distance of 50 to 300 feet from the stream channel. In addition, the area has excellent ground cover and high quality riparian vegetation that would serve as a buffer to any sediment that may be created by construction of the fence.

Requirements associated with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act were handled by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), in cooperation with staff from the U.S. Forest Service (Boise National Forest), under their existing Programmatic Agreement with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). A description of the Garman Fence project and site information was reviewed by a qualified archaeologist and forwarded to the Shoshone Bannock Tribe for review.

A known archaeological site has been located adjacent to the proposed fence line but it has not been documented since its original recording in 1958. Although the project will not involve ground disturbing activities, an archaeological survey was recommended (March 19, 2004). In response, an archaeological survey will be completed by qualified NRCS staff. All survey findings will be forwarded to the Idaho SHPO for consideration; a courtesy copy will also be sent to the Shoshone Bannock Tribe. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is discovered during project implementation, an archaeologist should be notified immediately and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices should be followed during the implementation of the Garman Fence project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable local, state, and federal permits and approvals.

Public involvement has occurred as part of the Garman Fence project. This project was coordinated through the Upper Salmon Basin Technical Team composed of representatives from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA Fisheries, Shoshone Bannock Tribe, and Idaho Department of Fish and Game. This project was ranked by the Technical Team in February 2004. In addition, Custer Soil and Water Conservation District and the Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project hold monthly meetings that are open to the public in which this project was discussed.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and, 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Shannon C. Stewart
Shannon C. Stewart
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Robert Beraud for
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: March 25, 2004

Attachments:
NEPA Compliance Checklist
NRCS Project Request for Cultural Resource Assistance, March 9, 2004 (Response March 19, 2004)

cc: (w/o attachments)
Ms. Karma Bragg – Custer Soil and Water Conservation District
Mr. Allen Bradbury – Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District